

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 14. This sheet, which includes Fig. 14, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 14. Fig. 14 now includes a heading indicating the figure number.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets (1).

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and in light of the following remarks and discussion.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 21-24, 27, 29, and 30 are pending. Claims 3, 6, 8, 11-20, 25, 26, 28, and 31 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 7, 21, and 27 are amended. A replacement sheet for Fig. 14 indicating the figure number is provided. Support for the amendment to Claim 1 can be found in now-canceled dependent Claims 3, 6, and 8 inasmuch as Claim 1 is amended to incorporate subject matter indicated in the outstanding Office Action as allowable. Support for the amendment to Claim 7 is self-evident. Support for the amendment to Claim 21 can be found in now-canceled dependent Claims 25, 26, and 28 inasmuch as Claim 21 is amended to incorporate subject matter indicated as allowable in the outstanding Office Action. Support for the amendment to Claim 27 is self-evident. The specification is amended to include a brief description of Fig. 14 and to revise the Abstract. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Abstract and Brief Description of the Drawings were objected to. Claims 1, 2, 5, 21, 22, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Perkins et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,379,465, herein "Perkins"). Claims 1, 2, 5, 21, 22, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as anticipated by Naoyuki (Japanese Patent Pub. 2002/231595, herein "Naoyuki"). Claims 3, 6, 7, 23, 26, and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Perkins. Claims 4, 9, 10, 24, 29, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Perkins in view of Mese et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,396,443, herein "Mese"). Claims 8 and 28 were indicated as reciting allowable subject matter.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that Claims 8 and 28 recite allowable subject matter.

Regarding the objection to the Abstract as including more than a single paragraph, the Abstract is amended to include only a single paragraph. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the objection to the Abstract is overcome.

Regarding the objection to the disclosure as lacking a brief description of Figs. 13 and 14, Applicant respectfully notes that a Preliminary Amendment was filed on March 22, 2005. Applicant further respectfully notes that the Preliminary Amendment filed on March 22, 2005, provided a brief description of Fig. 13. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that this objection to the specification is overcome. The specification is amended to include a brief description of Fig. 14. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the objection to the disclosure is overcome.

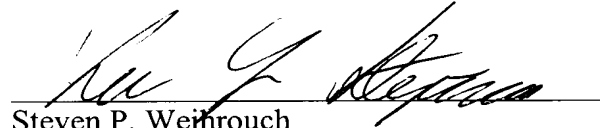
Regarding the rejections of Claims 1, 2, 5, 21, 22, and 25 as anticipated by Perkins; the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 5, 21, 22, and 25 as anticipated by Naoyuki; the rejection of Claims 3, 6, 7, 23, 26, and 27 as obvious over Perkins; and the rejection of Claims 4, 9, 10, 24, 29, and 30 as obvious over Perkins in view of Mese, Applicant respectfully submits that each of independent Claims 1 and 21 are amended to incorporate subject matter indicated in the outstanding Office Action as allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the various rejections of Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 21-24, 27, 29, and 30 are overcome. Inasmuch as independent Claim 1 recites the features of now-canceled Claims 3, 6, and 8, and amended independent Claim 21 recites the features of now-canceled dependent Claims 25, 26, and 28, these claims and the claims depending therefrom are respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 21-24, 27, 29, and 30 is earnestly solicited.

Should Examiner Edwards deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, Examiner Edwards is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven P. Weinrouch', is written over a horizontal line.

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